

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiners in charge of this case for the courtesy of the telephone interview held on February 24, 2004.

This amendment restricts the claims to allowable claims 127 and 131 and is believed to place the case in condition for allowance. In addition to restricting the claims to allowed subject matter, the only amendments are drawn to formal matters.

Thus, in accordance with the instant amendment previous claims 114-123 and 132-192 have been canceled.

Generic claim 124 was amended to include the feature of allowable claim 127, which has been canceled. New claim 193 is allowable claim 131 written in independent form, with claim 131 canceled.

The word "firm", objected to by the Examiner, has been replaced by "a connection to resist relative movement", as specifically disclosed in paragraph 0085 of the instant specification. (This was discussed at the telephone interview.)


Claims 128, 129 and 130 have been amended to make minor punctuation changes.

In addition, non-elected species claims 125 and 126 are believed to be allowable with the allowance of generic claim 124.

The drawing objections under 37CFR1.83(a) are believed to be overcome by cancellation of the claims to which they relate. The objections under 35U.S.C.112 drawn to claims 169-170 are believed overcome by the cancellation of these claims, and the objection to the word "firm" has been discussed above.

Accordingly, in view of the instant amendment and attached extension request, it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance and such action is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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